



*Farm Service Agency*

# Cowboy Country Connection

**Carbon/Albany FSA Newsletter**

**June 2008**

**Saratoga USDA Service Center**  
**101 Cypress Avenue**  
**PO Box 607**  
**Saratoga, WY 82331-0607**

Phone: (307) 326-5657 #2  
FAX: (307) 326-8572  
<http://www.usda.gov>

## **FARM SERVICE AGENCY**

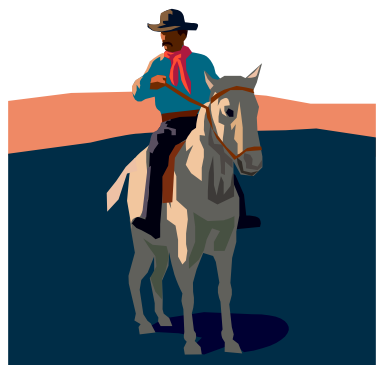
Sherrie Glenn, CED Ext. 104  
Deb Shirley, PT Ext. 105

## **COUNTY COMMITTEE**

Kelly Kennedy, COC Albany  
Tom Page, COC Albany  
Scott Sims, COC Carbon  
Matt Weber, COC Carbon  
Ray Waliser, COC Carbon  
Heidi Custis, Minority Advisor

## **NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**

Mark Shirley, DC  
Saratoga 326-5657 Ext. 101  
Angus McIntosh, Range Specialist  
Baggs 383-2550  
Margi Patz, Range Specialist  
Medicine Bow 379-2542  
Ruben Vasquez, DC  
Laramie 745-3698



## **County Committee Nominations Open**

Nominations of candidates for the Farm Service Agency county committee election representing producers in Local Administrative Area (LAA) #3 Little Snake River Area will be accepted from June 15 through August 1, 2008. Producers who are eligible to vote in LAA#3, and who participate or cooperate in an FSA program and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women ranchers may also nominate candidates. Beginning farmers and ranchers are encouraged to nominate themselves and participate in the election process.

Nomination Form FSA-669 A is attached for you to fill out and submit for LAA#3. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by November 3, and must be returned to the FSA county office or postmarked by December 1, 2008.

If you see one of our current board members tell them thank you for taking the time to serve as a liaison between producers and Farm Service Agency programs in your area! Call and visit with Sherrie if you may be interested.

## **Acreage Reporting Requirements**

It's that time of year again to file your annual acreage report. Please remember that filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs. Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date. Acreage reports are required if you want to be eligible for many Farm Service Agency programs.

The deadline for 2008 crop reports is **July 1, 2008**. Please note: they have increased the late filing fees from \$20.00 per farm to a starting rate of \$46.00 per farm. **Please watch for your acreage report in the mail this next week, if you don't receive yours, please call into the office, sign and promptly return!**

## **Hay Production Records for 2007**

If you haven't given the COF your Hay Production for 2007, please include your production (copies of the little pocket book, calendar or whatever you jot you're hay bale counts out of the field on) return with your acreage report to update your

ranch APH Actual Production History which is used to calculate your loss in the event of a disaster, a requirement for NAP. If you have any questions pertaining to this please give us a call.

### **Measurement Service Rates**

FSA provides a number of measurement services for our producers that include: measuring crops after planting, measuring fields prior to harvest, verifying crops and disaster conditions and acreages, measuring or sampling farm stored grains or other commodity crops, and verifying crops for late-filed acreage reports. The cost of this service has changed. It is now \$30 for the basic farm fee and \$16 for the first hour and \$8 for every 30 minutes after the first hour with a minimum of 1 hour charged.

All Continuous CRP applicants must pay for a measurement service when their acres are set up in the GIS system prior to the contract being approved.

### **Conservation Reserve Program Continuous Sign Up**

Under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) continuous sign-up, eligible agriculture producers may apply to enroll small acreages of eligible cropland or marginal pastureland in CRP. Participants agree to establish approved conservation practices on eligible land and remove the land from agricultural production in return for an annual rental payment for the term of the CRP contract, which can run from 10 to 15 years.

A 50% cost-share payment is available to help with the cost of completing approved conservation practices. There is an additional 40% cost-share incentive payment for certain practices. Along with the cost-share annual rental payments, there is a sign-up incentive payment and an annual maintenance payment. Some eligible practices that can be completed on land enrolled under continuous CRP are: Field Windbreaks, Shallow Water Area for Wildlife, Shelterbelt Establishment, and Riparian Buffers. Call the FSA office or contact your local NRCS area office for more details.

### **Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)** **Deadline Announced July 18th**

July 18<sup>th</sup> will be the last day for Carbon and Albany Producers to apply for benefits from the **Livestock Compensation Program** to livestock for losses incurred in 2006/2007. There will be no late-filed provisions. The County Office has processed many applications as of this date, please give us a call if you haven't made application and are interested.

Producers in primary or contiguous counties declared secretarial disaster areas or counties declared as Presidential disaster areas between January 1, 2005, and February 28, 2007, are eligible. Producers incurring a loss in more than one of the 2005, 2006, 2007 calendar years must choose only one year for which they want to receive benefits. **Carbon and Albany Counties meet the disaster declaration requirements for LCP for 2006 and 2007. Producers can receive LCP program payments for 2006 and/or 2007 only.**

The following are among the types of livestock operations that will be eligible for LCP: dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, equine, poultry, elk, reindeer, sheep, goats, swine or deer. The payment rate for each livestock category will be 61 percent of the national payment rate. USDA will publish these rates in the LCP fact sheet. Producers will not be penalized if they reduced the average number of livestock they owned for grazing during the production year for which assistance is being provided. Producers may receive a maximum of \$80,000 in **LCP** benefits.

## **Dates to Remember**

July 1	Deadline for Acreage reporting
July 1	Deadline to submit production evidence for 2007 hay production
July 4	4 <sup>th</sup> of July Holiday, Service Center Closed
July 18 <sup>th</sup>	Deadline for Livestock Compensation Program Applications
15 days	Deadline for reporting NAP losses, 15 days after the loss occurs
August 1	County Committee Nomination Deadline
Anytime	Continuous CRP Signups
Anytime	Call the office at anytime to discuss what the condition of water for irrigation and how hayfields and grazing grasses are coming along. We can serve you better when we know what the conditions are out there in your area. If someone needs to come and visit your ranch to document the situation we'll be glad to come out.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited based apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication or program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (Voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.